# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2272
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
TARGET FOR SOIL COLLECTION SAMPLE
PRABHUNATH SINGH

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether as against the target set for soil collection sample during 1997-98 and 1998-99 54,000 and 30,000 the achievement was only 21,466 and 20,021 respectively;

(b) if so, whether there has been consistent increase in budget allocation but the utilisation has been much below of allocations; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the performance and to achieve the targets set?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The capacity of 514 soil testing laboratories in the country which have been set up by states and fertilizer industry was 6.4 million soil samples per annum during 1997-98 and 1998-99. The average utilization of the capacity was 73%. States provide funds for running the soil testing laboratories owned by them while Fertilizer Industry provides funds for the laboratories set up by the industry. With a view to improve the performance of these laboratories, the States are periodically advised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture to improve the capacity utilisation and also to strengthen the facilities further.